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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Meeting of Intergovernmental Experts on the African Framework for Structural Adjustment Programme

Blantyre (Malawi) 27 February - 4 March 1989

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Finance on the African Framework for Structural Adjustment Programme

Blantyre (Malawi) 7 - 8 March 1989

UN/BIBRARY

INFORMATION FOR PAPTICIPANTS

THIS NOTE CONTAINS SOME INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING:

I. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FACILITIES

II. INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION

III. TRANSPORTATION (Air and Local)

IV. AIRPORT TAX

V. DRESS CODE

VI. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

VII. CONFERENCE VENUE

VIII. WORK PROGRAMME

IX. WEATHER FORECAST

X. EXCHANGE RATES OF MAIN FOREIGN CURRENCIES

I. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FACILITIES

The participants should go through immigration and customs formalities in Lilongwe and not in Blantyre.

All passports must carry endorsements covering the countries through which you pass. An endorsement "All Countries of the World" will suffice. Although any Air Malawi office or Appointed Travel Agent will gladly offer advice and assistance regarding the travel documents and visas required for your journey, you must personally ensure that you are in possession of the necessary travel documents and visas since Air Malawi cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences or any irregularity. It should be noted however, that some Consulates require a personal application before granting visas.

Entry visas to Malawi are required for all participants not belonging to commonwealth countries.

II. INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION

Valid yellow fever and cholera vaccinations are required for all those entering in Malawi.

III. TRANSPORTATION

A. Air Transportation

All participants should be advised to check through up to Blantyre. After the immigration and customs formalities in Lilongwe, the participants will board another local flight to proceed to Blantyre on the same day.

There are two or three local flights a day between Lilongwe and Blantyre which will connect with the international flights. The government will assist to organize alternative arrangements in case of delays.

The connections shown in the Air Malawi timetable have been chosen for their ease and convenience in overall travelling time. Travellers should check flights when making reservations since seasonal operation and time changes may affect to some degree the timings shown. Not all possible connections are shown herein: only those considered to be optimum. This timetable has been compiled from the latest information available at the time of going to press. Every effort has been made to verify the authenticity of information supplied in good faith with other airlines as well as by Air Malawi.

B. Local Transport

The government has agreed in addition to the two VIP vehicles to put at the disposal of the Secretariat adequate number of cars during the meetings.

Similar arrangements will be accorded to the participants. The ministers will be given VIP treatment and VIP cars.

IV. AIRPORT TAX

A departure tax of MWK20 for Malawi Passport holders and USD10 for other passport holders is levied on all international departures from Kamuzu International Airport, Lilongwe. Passengers should pay this on checking in.

V. DRESS CODE

Malawi is well known for its informality. For men, sports shirts, shorts or slacks, and light dresses for the ladies are ideal daytime dress. There are certain dress limitations which apply to residents and visitors alike; ladies may not wear slacks (except in game parks) and must wear dresses/skirts that completely cover the knee. Ladies must not wear miniskirts, pants and jeans. These regulations do not apply to the lakeshore resorts. Gentlemen must not wear trousers of the 'bell bottom' variety and long hair (defined as hair in bulk falling to the collar) is illegal. To avoid embarrassment on arrival, visitors are requested to ensure that they conform to these requirements.

VI. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The government is discouraging a layover in Lilongwe, because of the hotel and transport problems, unless the stopover is a must. Therefore, all participants will sleep in Blantyre. On their return, some participants including the ECA Secretariat shall be forced to spend a night in Lilongwe in order to catch the early morning flight, for which provision is made. The room rates are given below for hotels in Blantyre in Malawi Kwacha (MK) and in US$:

	Name of Hotel	Single		Double/or Single		Double	
		MK	US$	MK	US$	MK	US$
1.	Mont Soche	-	-	155	59	195	74
2.	Ryalls	112	42			147	56
3.	Shire	97	37			129	49
4.	Kudia	43	17			129	49
5.	Chisakalim	38	14			40	15

The tariff given above do not include 10% reduction and 20% tax.

VII. CONFERENCE VENUE

The Conference of African Ministers of Finance on the African Framework for Structural Adjustment Programme will be held at the Kwacha International Conference Centre in Blantyre (Republic of Malawi) which is 360 kilometres away from Lilongwe. It is a four to-five hour drive by car and about one hour by air.

VIII. [illegible]

The meeting of experts will be opened by the Minister of Finance. The life President may open the Conference of Ministers of Finance but if, because of heavy duty, he is unable to be present for the opening ceremony, he will delegate a senior minister to open the meeting on his behalf.

IX. WEATHER FORECAST

During the month of February and March the weather in Blantyre will be pleasantly warm and raining. The participants should be reminded to carry with them raincoats or umbrellas.

X. EXCHANGE RATES OF MAIN FOREIGN CURRENCIES

The national currency is called Malawi Kwacha (MK).

	Foreign Currencies	Rates in MK
1	United States of America Dollar	2.64
1	Sterling Pound	4.66
1	Swiss Franc	1.68
1	French Franc	0.42
1	Deutch Mark	1.43
1	Kenya Shilling	0.14
PTA	Traveller cheque	3.4789

However, the Malawi exchange rate policy imposes frequent fluctuations to its national currency pagged to a basket of currencies of various composition.